

2010 VDD/GNA Annual Meeting Report

Submitted by Atlantic Chapter Representative Nancy Bohs

What follows is a detailed report on the activities and meetings during the 2010 VDD/GNA Annual Meeting which was held in Montpelier, Ohio, July 15 -18, 2010. I'll start first with an overview of the events and then get into the details of the votes and rule changes.

On Thursday, the 15th, the VDD/GNA Executive Board met, while many other participants arrived, checked-in, or battled traffic around Chicago, in hopes of getting at least a partial night's sleep before the formal events started on Friday.

The VDD/GNA Board of Directors met on Friday. This body consists of the GNA Executive Board, plus a representative from each Chapter, usually the Chairman, but in our case his designated representative as voted on by our membership at our June meeting. The Board of Directors hears reports from the Executive Board members, the Board assistants, and the Chapters, as well as discussing and voting on pending business, including motions for the Annual Membership Meeting. Each attendee has one vote; the Chair usually does not vote, except in the event of a tie. Votes on motions here are not binding, but many motions may end up being withdrawn or amended during the discussions. The votes are, however, presented as recommendations to the membership; anyone who doesn't want to follow the Board of Directors' recommendation may call for a vote at the Membership Meeting. It is then that each Chapter casts its bloc of votes as determined by its number of members. In this way, it's known in advance how the votes will go, except for those members who may choose to vote separately from their chapter.

Two judging seminars were also held on Friday: an Introduction to the JGHV presented by Shane Deford and Geoff Mathews; and a continuing education seminar on evaluating retrieves at HZP presented by Mike Talbot and Nancy Bohs. Plus, GLC members Joel Williams and Gary Stephens presented training seminars on preparing for the VJP and HZP.

We wrapped up the night with an Oktoberfest in July in the North Atrium of the conference center. Wurst, salads, and beer were on the menu.

Saturday started with a presentation by VDD Head Breedwarden Sigurd Croneiß, which covered new proposals for the breeding regulations, some genetics, and a Breed Judge continuing education seminar. This was followed by a blood tracking seminar given by SEHC member Mike Fortner, and GLC member Dan Crusey's presentation on managing habitat for cottontails.

Atlantic Chapter member Ron Figler was the meeting photographer; he also handled his dog for the breed judge continuing education seminar.

Saturday afternoon saw us all in the Membership Meeting, along with a presentation by Purina on their Pro Club affiliation with the Canine Health Foundation. The banquet and auction followed, with plenty of socializing and mingling. As always, this is the most enjoyable part of the weekend!

The events wrapped up under the hot sun on Sunday with a Breed Show judged by Larry Reeves, Ron Nichols and Nancy Bohs. We were very fortunate to have Herr Croneiß in attendance; his insight and knowledge proved an invaluable learning tool for all concerned.

Board of Directors Meeting Report

The Board of Directors Meeting is the heart of the decision making process and gives all of the Chapter representatives an opportunity for input. It is absolutely critical that each Chapter have a representative present to speak and vote on their behalf. It operates on a one voice/one vote system. Even if any of those present hold a dual role, for instance as a GNA Executive Board member or as an Executive Board Assistant in addition to being a Chapter representative, he or she may still only cast one vote.

Old Business

VDD/GNA Chairman Bryon reported that the translation of the Questions on VGP Test Practices was now completed. The EB made final edits to the document the night before in their Executive Board meeting. Mark Heuer will have it available for distribution in a couple of weeks. It is 115 pages long. Bryon noted that the EB had budgeted \$8,000 for the translations of both the VZP and VGP Questions on Test Practices, and that the projects came in under \$3,000.

Bryon also reported that GNA's Artificial Insemination proposal had little-to-no support in the VDD Board of Directors Meeting. It was an extremely watered-down proposal, in that the GNA EB reduced the request to just 3 such breedings per year, using cooled semen only. (Our original request was for 10 services per year using frozen semen.) However, what initial support we had evaporated during the discussions at the meeting, and Bryon withdrew the motion in hopes of presenting it again at a later date. When I asked if limiting the AI stud dogs to just those dogs already in the US, Herr Croneiß said that it wouldn't make any difference with those who opposed AI.

It was also reported that the JGHV is implementing new Judge Candidate regulations which require a written test, but that GNA is already doing this so it shouldn't affect us.

The 2011 Hegewald will be held 24-27 August in Hollabrun, Austria. The Hegewald has been held several times before in Hollabrun.

Treasurer Fred Turjan reported that GNA has been operating without an approved budget for the last fiscal year (GNA's fiscal year runs from 1 Sept – 31 August). He based his projections on the 2008 budget, and anticipates that we will end the fiscal year with \$6,800 net gain. He included several reports: VDD/GNA Balance Sheet, a Profit/Loss Budgeted vs. Actual comparison for the fiscal year to date, a projected budget for FY 2010-2011, and a 3-Year Accounting of Armbruster expenses. GNA losses for the Armbruster were \$14,812.88 in 2007, \$5,918.38 in 2008, and \$16,245.17 in 2009. He also noted that GNA has €5,870 in our German bank account. The Atlantic Chapter has a \$2,039.20 account balance, after \$734 in expenses since 9/1/09. (Note that some chapters have in excess of \$10,000 in their "accounts.")

Newsletter Editor Larry Houck says that he has had no complaints about the reduction from 6 to 4 newsletters per year. He regularly gets requests from members for the site password after they throw out their newsletters and feels that this is an indication that the membership is using the GNA website as its main source of information. This occasioned some discussion, as especially the Heartland Chapter has spotty areas of internet, or at least broadband coverage, and has members whose only practical source of club information is still the newsletter. There were also several comments about the need to update, streamline, and fix the website. Currently Midwest North Chapter member Dan Wick is taking care of urgent changes on a volunteer basis. He is a web design professional. He has suggested to Larry 6 - 7 proposals to update GNA's site, which would cost \$6,000 - \$8,000 for each modification.

Larry also noted that he is the new Purina contact for GNA. Purina is a big sponsor of the Armbruster and other GNA events. Any Chapters which want to inquire about Purina sponsorship for their events must go through Larry.

Larry said that the Document Distribution office falls within his area of responsibilities and that he wanted to mention that Lona Kluck is doing a great job in this position. She sent out \$8,000 worth of documents last year, most of the time on the same day that they were requested.

Questions came up about the newsletter deadlines, since they are no longer published. Larry said that the deadlines are fluid; he has no set publication date now that the newsletters are seasonal. That allows him the flexibility to wait to publish the Summer edition until after the Annual Meeting, for example. He emails the Chapter Chairmen and EB Assistants 2 – 3 weeks ahead of when he anticipates putting together the newsletter. One of the Chapters asked for two notifications with an earlier reminder, but that's probably not going to happen.

Vice-Chairman Ed Carney reported that he is the official contact for the Chapter Chairmen, and that he had requested that they submit a written report by email prior to this meeting. I gave our Chapter report verbally given that our current Chapter Board had not received such notification. AC Chairman Fred Turjan asked that I announce that he and several other members had located an appropriate site for the 2012 Armbruster near Gettysburg PA and I did so with the caveat that this was still under discussion, that the Chapter had not approved it yet, and that this announcement could not be considered as a commitment.

Ed also noted that the Southeast Hunter Chapter had implemented a system of appointing state representatives, with the goal of making them elected members with voting privileges on the Chapter Board of Directors. In this way, SEHC will be operating analogously to GNA and VDD. Fred and Nancy announced that the Atlantic Chapter was investigating a similar system using regional representatives since we have so many states, some of which may have 2 or fewer members. Nancy reported that no members had volunteered to the Chapter Board, but Fred said that a couple people had contacted him.

Ed mentioned that we are now in the second year of the Chapter Challenge to approve 5 new VR's per Chapter. He noted that no Chapter has met the goal yet, but that every Chapter has had at least one new VR approved except for Midwest North. He noted that both the Wild West and Southeast Hunter Chapters have nominated 3 -4 new RANW, and that the SEHC's Forrest Moore has been approved as a

VSwR. It was further noted that problems have been encountered when people are applying for the RAnW program right after passing a VGP, or even the following spring. It is required that prospective judge candidates provide a copy of their dog's DGStB. Card (utility test card issued after passing a utility test). However, the cards are not printed until all the test data is entered by the JGHV which takes several months, and then GNA's Business Manager receives all of the cards in one batch sometime around May. It was also noted that judge candidates are often not getting feedback from their senior judges, and that the regulations require that a copy of the report be returned to the candidate with the senior judge's comments.

For 2009, GNA hosted 59 VJP's, 37 HZP's, 13 VGP's, and 2 Btr's. In VJP, 330 DD's were tested, 326 passed. In HZP, 216 DD's were tested and 178 passed. In VGP, 49 DD's were tested, and 28 passed. In Btr, 6 DD's were tested, and 2 passed.

It was also noted that GNA had some questions about whether we could be printing judge names on computer-generated test records. The answer is clear – at least two originals have to be signed, one for the handler and one for the club. GNA can submit legible photocopies to JGHV if we want.

Chapters were also reminded that the deadline for Hegewald judge nominations is 1 August, and that GNA will subsidize up to \$500 of their expenses.

VDD/GNA Breedwarden Lynn Whiteley reported that 60 litters have been whelped so far for 2010, for a total of 480 puppies. One litter was stamped forbidden for breeding because it was an accidental mating with a male not yet certified for breeding. He expects that to be retroactively corrected, as soon as the male is certified for breeding. We are at exactly 20% schwarzschimmel. Lynn reported that we were well below that last year, and that the total just really shot up in the last couple of months. Herr Croneiß added that 20% is okay with VDD, but no more. Should the percentage go up higher, it might be that VDD will consider implementing breeding restrictions. One possibility he cited would be to limit the number of services of schwarzschimmel stud dogs. (The Atlantic Chapter had the highest percentage of black pups registered at over 58%.)

Lynn also noted that he can pretty well predict the number of dogs that will be test based on historical data combined with the number of puppies produced each year. For 2009, he predicted that 331 dogs would be entered in VJP, and the actual number was 330.

And finally, Lynn reported that he has heard that many breeders are having a harder time placing all of their puppies in the current economy. He suggests that the Chapters make their members aware of this and that breeders would be well-advised to take this into account when they're planning their breedings.

Lynn and Paul Trout reported that they expect 35 -45 Armbruster entries for Boise this year. The rabbit numbers look good. They will be holding the Breed Show about ½ mile from the water work area, and the banquet will be held ¾ - 1 mile from the host hotel. No events are scheduled for Thursday or Friday nights because these are test days and it's too much to ask the various testing groups to be finished at an exact time. Two German judges are scheduled to participate and Bryon asked if there had been any

special arrangements made for them, such as a hunt. Paul replied that small game season is open, but that big game is all back-country hunting, and there might not be any tags available at this point.

New Business

Brandt Hardy presented the Big Rivers Chapter proposal to host the 2011 Armbruster. It will be held Wednesday through Friday, 12 – 15 October 2011, in St. Clair MO. Leonard Baker will serve as test director and Jim Wion will be the test coordinator. Test headquarters will be at the Budget Lodging, and there is a secondary motel 300-400 yards behind it. Both motels are very dog friendly. The motels are about 40 miles from the airport in St. Louis. The field work will be done at the WilMor Hunt Club, the same place as in 2005, and the water work will be done at Upland Wings in Sullivan about 40 minutes away.

Next, the Heartland Chapter requested VDD Honorary Membership for several of its long-time members. It was noted that approximately 1% of the total VDD membership are Honorary Members. They must have been members for at least 25 years and have made major contributions to VDD. Normally, these members have also received other VDD awards in the past. The Executive Board recommended that GNA request this honor for founding member and past GNA Breedwarden Larry Reeves. Bryon expects the nomination to be acted upon either at the VDD Board of Directors meeting at this year's Hegewald or in March 2011.

The emergency increase in the litter registration fee to \$35 per pup that took effect on 1 January was ratified and it was recommended that it be left in place. The increase was necessary because of unfavorable USD – Euro exchange rates. Things have improved somewhat, but VDD increased the litter registration fee effective 1 July 2010. It was also felt that since a portion of the litter registration fee had always been dedicated to advertising, and that major improvements are needed to the GNA website, that the increase should be left in place in any case.

The new business concluded with the announcement that the 2011 General Membership Meeting will be held next June in Denver. Exact location and dates are still to be determined.

Motions

Basically, all of the motions presented by the GNA Executive Board were approved. All except one of those presented by Chapters or individual members failed. As the Atlantic Chapter representative, I cast my single vote as directed by the Chapter membership. Two exceptions were Executive Board proposals that had not been published, so none of the Chapter reps knew about them ahead of time.

Test Request Deadlines - The proposal to put back into the GNA Rules of Procedure test request deadlines, and to make those deadlines 1 June and 1 December in order to comply with JGHV publication requirements passed unanimously. This rule change also includes language to require that any subsequently scheduled "emergency" tests must be pre-approved by the GNA Director of Testing. Note that this does not apply to tests which have to be rescheduled or continued because of exigent circumstances.

Armbruster Exclusive Special Event – The proposal to put into the GNA Rules of Procedure the current SOP that no other tests or events may be held during the Armbruster schedule passed with only the Atlantic Chapter dissenting. There was quite a lot of discussion on this; our Chapter members are not the only ones with misgivings about this rule. The Great Lakes Chapter also expressed their disagreement, with the same concerns as our Chapter, as did the Heartland Chapter.

Written Motions May Only be Made by Chapters in the Future – This Executive Board proposal was not made in time for publication in the GNA Newsletter, so it may come as news to many of you. In short, the VDD and JGHV have amended their by-laws so that motions for their Membership Meetings may only be made by Groups, by 1 December each year. In order to conform to the spirit of these by-laws, and the principle that the Groups and Chapters operate analogously to VDD, the GNA EB recommended that our RoP be changed as well. In GNA’s case the deadline for written motions will be 12 weeks before the annual meeting. This was passed unanimously. (Please note that members may still go to the Annual Meeting and make motions from the floor, and that they may contact their Chapter Boards at any time to request or propose motions that the Chapter would then present in writing ahead of time.)

Submit Chapter Meeting Minutes to GNA EB – GNA Treasurer Fred Turjan made this motion from the floor. All present agreed to hear the motion, in accordance with the VDD By-Laws, which allow such motions to be heard if no more than 1/3 present object. This proposal will add an additional Rule of Procedure which requires the Chapters to submit written minutes of their membership meetings to the GNA Executive Board within one month of their meetings and they will be published in the GNA Newsletter. The motion passed unanimously.

Hire a Website Manager for GNA – This motion from the Heartland Chapter was withdrawn prior to a vote. It would have required the GNA EB to prepare a bid proposal and solicit bids for a professional website manager. There was extensive discussion on this topic, which ranged from the fact that its language included the phrase “will hire” and did not set forth the specifics of the bid proposal. In the end, HLC rep Rhonda Feazel agreed to withdraw the motion for now, in order to re-word it for possible consideration in the future. NL Editor Larry Houck will in the meantime form an ad-hoc committee to investigate the possibilities, and report back to the GNA EB by the end of the year.

Supply VR’s with Up-to-Date Test Regulations – This Heartland Chapter motion failed with the only Yea votes coming from the representatives of the Atlantic, Great Lakes, and Heartland Chapters. There was a lot of discussion with the main themes being that it would cost \$4,000 every six years to do this, and that there were too many implementation requirements. HLC rep Rhonda Feazel said that they had put in so many conditions to distribution in anticipation of a negative reaction from the GNA EB with regard to cost.

Chapter Checking Accounts – This Heartland Chapter proposal was withdrawn after discussion, during which Fred Turjan explained how Chapters could pre-pay vendors or invoice expenses. He made it clear that GNA did not expect or want individual members to pay out of their own pockets or have to carry debt until reimbursement by GNA.

Before the consideration of the written motions made by Roger Smith, it was announced that the Atlantic Chapter had ratified all but one (the Hawaii Exclusion) at our Chapter Membership Meeting, and that they could be considered as coming from our Chapter.

Armbruster Cost Analysis and Entry Fee Adjustment – Defeated. Only the Atlantic, Great Lakes, and Heartland Chapter reps voted for this motion. The GNA Executive Board was opposed to it, saying that it was a signature, premier, international event that deserved to be subsidized, and that in fact GNA subsidizes all of its tests to one degree or another. Treasurer Fred Turjan objected also on the grounds that he'd have to go back and figure in Breed Show entry fees.

Increase Dues in Order to Include Test Regs with New Member Packet - Defeated with only the Atlantic Chapter rep voting for it.

Supply Test Regulations and Breeding Regulations to Judges Whenever there is a New Edition – This was argued extensively. We had other supporters here besides GLC's Marty Ryan and HLC's Rhonda Feazel. GNA Director of Judge Development Mark Heuer felt that we ought to go even further, and remove the requirement to distribute only to active judges. He felt that new copies ought to go out to all VR's. The main points of those in favor was that it was the least we could do for our judges, who invest so much more than can ever be reimbursed, and that if GNA can lose \$6,000 to \$16,000 each year over the last 3 years on the Armbruster, \$4,000 to support our VR's every 6 years is a drop in the bucket. The motion ended up being defeated by a vote of 7 – 5. Once again, the Great Lakes and Heartland Chapters agreed with our position, as did several other individuals. One of those present asked for a re-count, and official announcement of the vote tally. This was a hotly contested issue. There was also some animosity over the misunderstanding that the motion implied criticism of how our judges were being kept up to date on rule changes by GNA.

The GNA EB was against the proposal for the following reasons: Cost – It was calculated that it will cost \$4,000 to send out the regs, and a new edition comes out every six years; burden of additional work on our volunteer Board members or their assistants – how to track active VR's, who would have to be responsible for the mailings, etc.; and, finally, the fact that VR's in Germany have to buy their own copies. Fred Turjan felt that since the Chapters don't contribute to GNA and that the Chapter funds essentially sit in GNA's bank account and can't be utilized, that they ought to buy the test regulations in bulk and be responsible for their distribution. This would only involve a paper transfer of funds from a Chapter "account" to GNA's account. This was widely endorsed by the GNA EB and a few of the Chapters. In fact, Big Rivers rep Brandt Hardy said he would present this idea to his Chapter immediately and get this process underway for their Chapter.

Exclude Hawaii from any GNA Chapter – Unanimously defeated.

Request Permission from JGHV to Publish Updates to 2007 English VZPO on the GNA Website – Passed unanimously. There are sections in the English VZPO, 2007 edition, which do not match the current German language test regulation, which is called the 2006/2 edition. This motion proposes that the GNA EB request permission to publish such corrections/updates on the GNA website. There was extensive discussion of this proposal as well. It was noted that we (GNA) have always had difficulties in this

regard, that we have repeatedly asked for permission to publish test regulations and have been denied under the umbrella of copyright infringement. However, JGHV is now posting the German language test regulations as pdf documents on their website. As an adjunct to this request, the GNA Board is also going to request that JGHV post the English version as well, and that if they won't give us permission to post corrections, that they do so, thereby allowing us to link to their site. This would go a long way toward alleviating some of the concerns evidenced by some of the preceding motions.

Ask VDD and JGHV to Postpone Effective Date of Rule Changes for Groups outside Germany – I withdrew this after discussion. The GNA EB has already made these requests and had them denied. However, Herr Croneiß said that he is sympathetic to our concerns and he will see what can be done as far as getting changes translated into English and transmitted to GNA as quickly as possible.

Breed Judge Tests Conducted in US – This has already been requested by GNA and denied, so I withdrew it.

Provide Translations of VDD and JGHV Motions 21 days before their Meetings – Chairman Bryon Beaton said he would love to be able to do this, but it is just impossible to accomplish in the time frame specified. He said he himself doesn't get the motions that far in advance since they are not prepared for publication until the February issue of the DD-Blätter. I withdrew the motion in light of its impracticality.

Exempt GNA from German Event Announcement and Publication Deadlines – The GNA EB just asked for this exemption and was denied, so I withdrew the motion.

Annual General Membership Meeting Report

The 40th Annual General Membership Meeting of VDD/GNA was opened at 2:00pm on Saturday, 17 July 2010, with Chairman Bryon Beaton presiding. After a moment of silence to reflect on those members we lost during the year, Bryon welcomed guests VDD Head Breedwarden Sigurd Croneiß, and Group Canada Vice-Chairman Adam Pethick. Atlantic Chapter member Ron Figler photographed the awards presentations and other proceedings.

Next it was agreed to allow the following alterations to the published agenda: require that written motions come only from Chapters, 12 weeks before the Annual Meeting; Chapters must submit written meeting minutes to the GNA Executive Board; and, approval of a budget for fiscal year 1 September 2010 through 21 August 2011.

The reading of the minutes from last year's annual meeting was waived unanimously by the membership.

Bryon then introduced Fred Turjan for an explanation of the JGHV's VGP and VSWP Awards. These awards are automatically earned, but they must be requested and proof of qualification must be supplied. This is a project on which Fred has been diligently working for the last couple of years. The awards are for breeding or handling a certain number of utility dogs or blood tracking dogs. They start

with 5 or more, then 10 or more, etc. Bryon announced that our GNA members qualified for a total of ten awards. Fred Turjan, Mike Schell, Marty Ryan, Roger Green, Paul Trout, and Nancy Bohs all received recognition for the number of utility or blood tracking dogs they've bred and/or handled. In the cases of Fred, Mike, and Marty, they received multiple awards. Marty for handling utility and blood tracking dogs; Fred for the number of utility dogs he has handled, for the number of Prize I dogs he has handled, and for the number of utility dogs he has bred; and, Mike for the number of utility dogs he has bred and handled. Mike is also due for another award that hadn't been included in the calculation at the time of the meeting. This was a very nice impression to make on our VDD guests. I'd like to ask that our Chapter members remember to thank Fred for his hard work in making sure our GNA members were internationally recognized. Specific details of each award will be published in the Group Newsletter.

Herr Croneiß then ceremoniously presented Breed Judge cards to the last five GNA members who attended and passed the breed judge written test in Germany. They were: Jason Abbas, Ed Carney, Blaine Eickelschulte, Jim Strilich, and Mike Talbot. This is a major coup for our Group, to show that we can stand as equals with our counterparts in Germany.

Vice-Chairman Ed Carney announced that GNA is in the second year of the 5-year Chapter VR Challenge and that we all have a ways to go to fulfill the goal of approving five new VR's per chapter.

Business Manager Jim Wion announced that GNA has 1144 members. We are averaging 200 or more new members per year. For purposes of voting, he used a cut-off date of 31 May for new members in figuring each Chapter's membership.

Votes/Members per Chapter:

Atlantic	161
Big Rivers	140
Great Lakes	118
Great Plains	154
Heartland	113
Midwest North	179
Southeast Hunter	102
Wild West	166

Treasurer Fred Turjan announced that GNA will essentially have no more income after the annual meeting, until the end of the fiscal year on 31 August. He estimates that we will end the year with about a \$7,000 profit.

Group Breedwarden Lynn Whiteley gave his breeding report for the year, noted that he now supplies breeding statistics broken down by Chapter to each of the Chapter Breedwardens. He mentioned that some DD's are still showing up in shelters, and that the GWP Rescue is getting testy with GNA officers since they think we ought to be taking care of this issue ourselves. He cautioned breeders to make sure that pups go to the best possible homes in order to avoid them being surrendered later on.

Newsletter Editor Larry Houck says that 1200 newsletters are printed per edition; 2009 was the first complete 4 edition year. He praised Document Distribution assistant Lona Kluck, noting that she sent

out \$8,000 worth of documents to the membership. He also thanked Purina for being such a big supporter of GNA and the Armbruster.

Next, Gene Kluck gave the auditors' report . GNA selects two auditors to serve a two-year staggered term, so that we have one new auditor and one hold-over each year. For 2009, the volunteer auditors were Gene Kluck and Ashley Drury. For 2010, Hans Klein will replace Gene, while Ashley stays on. Gene praised Treasurer Fred Turjan for his cooperation, speedy response and good record-keeping. He and Ashley made two suggestions that they wished the EB to consider. The first was to establish a working loan to the Chapter that was hosting the Armbruster, and the second was to schedule a simple professional audit to be done every two – five years. Neither suggestion was accepted by the EB. Fred said that he takes care of pre-paying the Armbruster expenses when necessary, and that the EB had already investigated staging a professional audit and rejected the practice because it would cost \$6,000 - \$8,000.

Fred presented the proposed FY 2010-2011 budget to the membership. Member Nancy Bohs made a motion to accept it, and it passed unanimously.

Brandt Hardy reported on the proposal to hold the 2011 Armbruster in St. Clair, Missouri, 12 -15 October 2011. The proposal as discussed in the Board of Directors' meeting was unanimously ratified by the membership.

The Great Plains Chapter is hosting GNA's Annual Membership Meeting in June 2011, in Denver, Colorado. Exact dates and location are still to be determined.

Next came the presentation of the motions pending before the membership. The procedure was to announce the vote and recommendation of the Board of Directors on each motion as it was presented.

In every case, the membership implicitly ratified the decisions made during the Board of Directors' Meeting. This is not to say, however, that there wasn't discussion, sometimes a little vociferous, on a couple of the motions, most notably to do with the degree to which GNA subsidizes the Armbruster, the distribution of Test Regulations to VR's, and the requirement that only Chapters may submit written motions to the membership meeting.

Several members spoke in agreement with the motion to analyze the Armbruster costs per dog and adjust the entry fee. Long-time member Ken Gill from the Heartland Chapter was one of those who agreed with the idea that GNA should examine the degree to which we are subsidizing the Armbruster.

The lengthiest discussion occurred over the motions to distribute the regulations to judges whenever new editions are published. The Executive Board noted that it had been agreed at the Board of Directors' Meeting that they would request that JGHV post the English translation of the test regulations on their website, just as they have done with the German-language version. Ken Gill thought that we should distribute the test regulations to new members, but without increasing dues. Heartland Chapter Blaine Eickelschulte asked for clarification of the fact that it seemed to him that the EB's main reason for what he felt was a lack of support for GNA judges was due to money. Director of Judge Development

Mark Heuer reiterated the suggestion from the Treasurer that the Chapters buy and distribute the regulations. Atlantic Chapter member Hans Klein agreed with this idea, and Big Rivers' Brandt Hardy advised that he intended to get his chapter moving on that idea. Bill English and Frank Van Dresser, of the Great Lakes Chapter, both felt that if GNA can support the Armbruster to the degree that it does, then we can also afford to give our judges the test regulations. The EB pointed out that the regulations are not distributed to judges in Germany; each VR must buy his own. The EB also pointed out that with shipping, an individual copy of the test regulations cost GNA \$20. Heartland member Linda Reeves questioned this high price, and the EB reminded the membership that we are constrained by the JGHV, due to their copyright of the English translation, and must purchase from them.

Finally, the discussion turned to the Executive Board motions. The membership ratified the increase in litter registration fees, and the EB reminded all present that part of those monies were dedicated to advertising by a prior vote of the membership, and that the GNA website needs updating, which is now our major source of public advertising for the breed. It was also noted here that VDD had increased its registration fee as of 1 July 2010.

Great Lakes member Thomas Busch commented on the change to the GNA Rules of Procedure that will disallow individual members from making motions to the Membership Meeting. He pointed out that things were not done this way in Germany. Others present also felt that this did not seem fair. The EB informed the members that this change had recently been implemented by both VDD and JGHV, and that GNA was simply amending its rules to comply the by-laws of our parent organizations. Atlantic member Nancy Bohs pointed out that individual members could still attend the Membership Meeting and make motions from the floor.

As you can see, the individual members who were in support of the same motions as our Atlantic members belonged to the same Chapters who voted with us in the Board of Directors' Meeting. So these votes were essentially a foregone conclusion; no member requested that a membership vote be taken in order to re-count what we all knew was going to be the result.

The example of the Southeast Hunter Chapter's state representatives was presented, and all present felt that it was a good idea, and gave their approval that a Chapter could indeed operate in this fashion.

Next, the Chairman introduced our Purina representatives, Pat LaMantia and his boss, Steve. They gave a presentation on Purina's Parent Club Partner program (PPCP) and its affiliation with the Canine Health Foundation. In short, if a breed club signs on as a parent club with Purina, Purina will donate 10% of their members' Purina Pro Club points' dollar value to the Canine Health Foundation. When a parent organization has a medical or genetic issue that they need researched, the Canine Health Foundation is there to take on the project. An example is the research currently being done on cardiomyopathy in Boxers, undertaken at the request of the American Boxer Club.

In conclusion, Bryon opened up the floor to comments from the membership. Atlantic member Hans Klein presented list of complaints about his chapter. Atlantic member Jon Prescott publicly thanked Roger Smith and Nancy Bohs for their efforts in beginning the fight against vWD in the DD twenty years ago. Great Lakes member Gary Stephens commented on the policy which prohibits Chapter members

who live outside the Chapter's geographical boundaries from holding elected office in their Chapter. Gary lives just 10 miles from Ohio, and is hours away from the center of Atlantic Chapter activities, and so belongs to the Great Lakes Chapter. NL Editor Larry Houck mentioned that German Groups wrestle with the same problem. The consensus opinion on the EB is that a line has to be drawn somewhere, and that they can't make arbitrary exceptions based on proximity or on a case-by-case basis.

VDD Breeding and Breed Judge Seminar

VDD Head Breedwarden Sigurd Croneiß presented a mini-version of the 2-day seminar which was held in Germany on 10 June 2010.

Part I of the seminar dealt with recent and proposed changes to the VDD Breeding Regulations, as well as discussions on various issues that could be combined under the umbrella of genetics.

Herr Croneiß started out with the explanation of VDD's relationship with the VDH *{Verband für das Deutsche Hundewesen}* and FCI *{Fédération Cynologique Internationale}*. VDH is loosely equivalent to AKC, and FCI is the international canine standards organization to which most countries' kennel clubs belong. (AKC is an exception; they have long gone their own way with breed standards.) VDD's membership in the FCI is by virtue of being a member breed club of the VDH. VDH promulgates the rules for breed shows, breed judges, and breeding kennels, while the breed clubs are left to themselves to determine their own field performance standards. In the case of VDD, we have adopted the JGHV tests as our performance tests.

Herr Croneiß advised us that AKC and FCI now have a cooperative agreement. This concerns VDD, since AKC has changed the standard, and essentially the breed, for their GWP. VDD intends to keep a close eye on developments along this front.

Next he went over changes to the VDD Breeding Regulations. All except the last had already been put into place, or just took effect on 1 July. Some are required by FCI, some by VDH.

1. VDH requires Breeder Seminars. These have not yet been implemented in a standardized fashion in Germany, but this seminar as given in June 2010 is the one with which they are starting.
2. VDH requires breeders to keep a log book. VDD is doing away with the puppy buyer list, which was prohibited by privacy laws in many German and US states. It is being replaced with a litter inspection report, much as GNA already does, except that copies of these will now be kept on file in the VDD Stud Book Office *{Zuchtbuchamt}*.
3. In the future, registered kennel names will no longer expire after 10 years of inactivity. They will remain reserved indefinitely in order to facilitate research and lessen confusion about any dog's pedigree.
4. Certification for breeding may only be done at a breed show. (In extraordinary circumstances, Herr Croneiß can make exceptions.)
5. Largely because of rule #4 above, the minimum age at which a dog can be admitted to the Breed Registry *{Zuchregister}* (receive a ZR number, as we would say) has been reduced to 15 months.

6. Retroactive re-registrations / re-inclusions in the VDD Breed Book {*Zuchtbuch*} of the offspring of VDD dogs that were bred in foreign countries according to the foreign rules rather than VDD rules will no longer be permitted. Herr Croneiß gave as an example a VDD dog purchased by a breeder in Italy, bred despite the fact that it was not HD-frei, and the offspring previously would have been eligible for re-inclusion in the VDD Breed Book.

7. FCI requires that breeding dogs are not subject to any disorders such as the bleeding disorders, epilepsy, HD, OCD, or ED. VDD will now expressly prohibit the breeding of such animals. This is why breeders and stud dog owners now have to attest to this fact by means of the signed statement on the new litter registrations and stud certificates.

8. The breeding of first-degree relatives is now defined as incest, and is prohibited. Any puppies produced from such matings, accidental or otherwise, will automatically be forbidden from use as breeding animals {*Zuchtverbot*}.

9. Brood bitches are forbidden from further breedings once they have had 2 C-sections. Breeders now have to acknowledge on the litter registration that they may not breed their dog again if the litter was whelped via the bitch's second C-section.

This next point was just voted on in June 2010. It still has to go before the VDD Meeting in March 2011. However, it will probably take effect on 1 July 2011. It will not be retroactive. All dogs already certified for breeding will remain so.

10. Dogs will also have to be certified as free of OCD. A shoulder X-ray will be mandatory at or after one year of age. It is recommended that shoulders and hips be done at the same time. As of now, the procedure for evaluating shoulders is still being decided, even down to what radiograph views the German evaluators will want. OCD-frei dogs will be published in the *DD-Blätter* just like HD-frei dogs.

As a corollary to this discussion, it was also mentioned it is being considered to add "vWD clear" as a breeding prerequisite. The mechanism by which dogs would be certified as vWD clear has still to be discussed and decided, but it would more than likely be a DNA test done by a certified lab. Hannover and Laboklin were mentioned, as was VetGen here in the US.

Herr Croneiß said that they have been conducting a voluntary study of OCD in DD's over the last two years in Germany. The first year, 100 dog owners submitted radiographs, and 10 dogs were found to have OCD. So far this year, 200 owners have submitted x-rays, but only 6 dogs have been found to have OCD. He suspects that now that word has gotten out, the bad films aren't being submitted to Dr. Schunk.

As you can imagine, this last point generated a lot of discussion. The younger German orthopedic experts are saying that even though OCD is considered a polygenic trait (inherited through multiple genes which may have their expression influenced by environment or nutrition) it is undoubtedly inherited and must be selected against. There is plenty of disagreement on both sides of the pond about the actual heritability of OCD, and whether trauma alone can cause radiographic evidence that is indistinguishable from true OCD. Some say it will look different, some say it will look the same. Some

say OCD only shows up if there is an underlying predisposition even if it is positively demonstrated that the lameness was the direct result of trauma. Some use the example of a pro athlete with a blown knee – did he inherit a weakness or was it the hard hit he took? Herr Croneiß recommended that if a dog is injured in an accident, that he be seen and immediately x-rayed by his veterinarian and have the vet certify in writing that the dog was treated due to an injury. There is general agreement that OCD is most common in males, at rate of 3 -1 over females, and that it usually shows up between 5 and 12 months of age. Some recommend excluding from breeding only those dogs which require surgery, and never their littermates.

In other discussion topics, Herr Croneiß mentioned the trend toward molecular genetics in Germany, a direction that came originally from the US. Our German counterparts are now also talking about inbreeding coefficients, although they seem to calculate the inverse compared to how Americans are accustomed to doing it.

It is generally agreed among the Germans that most conformation traits, as well as temperament, are polygenic, with different degrees of heritability. The results for any one trait that is expressed phenotypically in an identical manner in both parents will generally plot out on a bell curve. The Germans feel that litter size is a non-inherited or low-heritability trait, while they've found that shoulder height, muzzle length, and general temperament have a high heritability. They feel that the tendency toward gun sensitivity of any degree is very highly inherited.

Part II of the seminar dealt with evaluating dogs at a breed show. Herr Croneiß says he has no complaints with how our breed judges fill out the breed show form. We're doing it correctly, so he adjourned right to the demonstration evaluation. He also mentioned that the standard female drawing in the breed standard is wrong – they're going to get a new one for the next printing.

Some things did crop up that should be pointed out to our breeders and owners. The current standard of evaluation for a "just barely distinct" beard is 20 meters (about 60 paces) away. The well-defined beards are obvious, but if you go 20 meters and can just barely see that the dog has a beard, it goes into the "just distinct" category. If you can't see it at all from that distance, then the rating will drop to an evaluation of "too little" or "missing" which means your dog won't get a ZR number. Eyelids which are even slightly "open" (loose) will also keep a dog from getting a ZR number. The disqualifying white patches (we're talking pure white pigment) that were accidentally left out of the standard a while back are defined as 5 cm in diameter, or about the size of a tennis ball. These were always a breeding disqualification, but some of our newer breeders may not remember the old standard, and the tennis ball analogy is a good one. And finally, Herr Croneiß doesn't like how most breed shows here and in Germany judge the gallop by calling the dog to the handler from a sit- or down-stay. He feels that many dogs will shorten up their gaits in this situation, so he prefers to have the dogs run as freely as possible. Consider coming to a breed show with a ball or bumper, or having your dog be capable of taking a "back" or an "over" and being stopped or turned if necessary.